कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरुन्विद नेताम) : (क) और (ख) आम, लीची, नींबू वर्गीय, अमरूद, केला, आंवला, टमाटर, आलू, मटर, लहसुन खुम्भी, फूलों आदि की पहचान के लिये अभिवृद्धि वाले क्षेत्रों के रुप में की गई है।

(ग) बीजों/उन्नत किस्मों की रोपण सामग्री में गुणात्मक वृद्धि करके, विद्यमान पौध रोपण की उत्पादकता में सुधार करके, कृषकों के प्रशिक्षण, फसल कटाई पश्चात के रख-रखाव हेतु बुनियादी सुविधाओं के विकास तथा उत्पादों के विपणन के लिए केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं के माध्यम से पर्याप्त सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है।

Growth of poultry industry

4049. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken and achievements made by Government on the growth of poultry industry in the country;

(b) the target fixed for 8th Plan for the growth of poultry industry;

(c) the problems faced by poultry sector and the steps taken to resolve them;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to involve the rural people in the poultry industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The following major steps have been taken for the growth of the poultry industry:—

(i) Increasing the availability of quality chicks to poultry farmers.

(ii) Organisaiton of poultry units on cooperative basis.

(iii) Improved training facilities.

Egg production in 1993-94 was of the order of 23.7 billion. The target of egg production for the VII Plan is 30.00 billion.

(d) and (e) Poultry is one of the eligible activities for subsidy to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labours and rural artisans under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Government have also approved a scheme for the establishment of poultry complexes in the State of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttar Pradseh and West Bengal where poultry development is comparatively poor.

Adverse effects on production of foodgrains

4050. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that production of foodgrains has been adversely affected in the absence of (i) credit facilities for farmers on reasonable terms (ii) crop insurance and (iii) in road dairy products based indudstry;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Chairman of "Farmers Parliamentary Forum" highlighting the difficulties faced by farmers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to information available, foodgrains production and milk production in the country in the last five vears has increased. Adequate credit facilities and crop insurance cover are available to the farmers.

(b) and (c) A representation has been received from Farmers Parliamentary Forum in March, 1994. The main points on which the representation has been made include:—

(i) Enhancement of fertilizer subsidy from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 7,000/- crores.

(ii) enhancement of loan to agriculture sector by the banks from 18 per cent to 20 per cent;

(iii) keeping the rate of interest on crop loans upto a maximum of 5 per cent; and

(iv) Modification of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme to include non-loanee farmers alongwith farmers who have taken bank loans.

The suggestions have been examined.

(i) **Enhancement of fertilizer subsidy:** Allocation of funds for subsidy on fertilizers is made on the basis of likely production/imports of controlled fertilizers, retention price of individual units, notified sale etc. So long as there is one set of controlled price of urea for the farmers, the farmers would not benefit from any enhanced allocation for fertilizer subsidy.

(ii) **Loan to farmers:** Out of 40 per cent of advances to priority sector, 18 per cent of the total advance for agriculture appears quite adequate.

(iii) **Interest on crop loans:** It is not possible to limit the rate of interest on crop loans upto 5 per cent as this would be very uneconomical for the viability of the banks. The present rates being charged by the Institutional Agencies are, however, less than the rates prevailing in the informal sector for crop loans.

(iv) **Modification of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme:** A proposal is under consideration to revise the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) in which the question of extending the scheme to non-loanee farmers will be examined alongwith other issues.

External credit for rehabilitation of quake affected villages

4051. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answr to Unstarred Question 1673 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1995 and state:

(a) the quantum of external credit provided to the State Government of Maharashtra for rehabilitation of quake affected villages in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has given long term loan for rehabilitation of affected villages and if so, what are the details thereof and what is the rate of interest at which the credit has been given; and

(c) the details of the amount so far utilised for construction of houses in the affected villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank has agreed to provide an IDA credit equivalent of US $246.0 million for the Maharashtra earthquake rehabilitation programme. The IDA credit has a service charge of ¾ per cent and is repayable over 35 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

(c) Upto the end of January, 1995, US $26.855 million has been utilised under the project.

Integrated Foodgrains Development Programme

4052. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change has been effected in the schemes under Centrally sponsored Integrated Foodgrains Development Programmes so that these schemes are to be implemented in selected Development Blocks instead of whole district;